

ABSTRACT

5 A cutting tool assembly including a cutting  
bit having a head and a cylindrical shank portion of  
substantially constant diameter depending from the head  
as well as a bit holder including a cylindrical bore  
for receiving the cylindrical shank portion of the  
cutting bit. The shank portion includes an annular  
recessed groove. The cutting tool assembly further  
includes a retainer sleeve disposed between the shank  
10 portion of the cutting bit and the bore of the bit  
holder and which closely conforms about the shank  
portion while allowing the shank portion to rotate  
within the bore. The retainer sleeve includes at least  
one inwardly folded over stop tab that cooperates with  
15 the recessed groove to axially position the shank  
within the retainer. The retainer includes stop tabs  
that are bent around beyond the shear cut lines of the  
tab opening so that the hub portions of the shank do  
not transmit a force against these weakened shear cut  
20 areas of the retainer. The shank hub is positioned so  
that the hub rotates against only those portions of the  
retainer that are not weakened by shear line openings.

FOOTNOTES: 044001